

The Salisbury Planning Board held its regular meeting Tuesday, October 25, 2005, in the City Council Chamber of the Salisbury City Hall at 4 p.m. with the following being present and absent:

PRESENT: Dr. Mark Beymer, Bryan Duncan, Brian Miller, Valarie Stewart, Albert Stout, Bryce Ulrich, Dr. Kelly Vance, Price Wagoner, Charlie Walters, and Diane Young

ABSENT: Lou Manning and Sandy Reitz

STAFF: Janet Gapen, Lynn Raker, Preston Mitchell, Diana Moghrabi, and Joe Morris

Chairman **Brian Miller** called the meeting to order and offered the invocation. The minutes of the October 11, 2005, meeting were approved as published.

Brian Miller introduced Dr. Kelly Vance, who will fill the position that became available with the resignation of Mr. Len Clark. Dr. Vance is employed by the VA Hospital and is new to Salisbury. Staff and the Planning Board members appreciate her acceptance of the invitation to join Salisbury's Planning Board.

HISTORY AND ART TRAIL PRESENTATION

Salisbury's Community Appearance Commission Chair, Barbara Perry, made a Power Point presentation on the History and Art Trail that summarized what the committee has achieved over the last two years. This presentation was first delivered to the community's funding partners at a luncheon at Park Avenue Center.

Downtown Salisbury Master Plan was adopted in 2002:

- Make Downtown Salisbury a place to create and learn
- Make Downtown Salisbury a place to experience history
- Make Downtown Salisbury a place of lasting impressions

"The history of Salisbury and Rowan County can come alive--not just in the museums, but also on the streets where plaques, sculptures and unique artwork can tell our interesting stories."

Salisbury's Community Appearance Commission (CAC) got the ball rolling in 2003 by inviting Joan Farrell, then the curator for Asheville's Urban Trail, to Salisbury. A delegation of CAC members and downtown enthusiasts visited Asheville for a more detailed look.

Mission of the History and Art Trail: To interpret Salisbury's history and culture through public art in the downtown area. The committee established very detailed guidelines for the program. The guidelines include the program goals and all the operational procedures.

September 2004 History and Art Trail Charette: Funded by the Robertson Foundation and the NC Arts Council. The committee reached a consensus that the trail would be on two levels.

First, sites would be identified with bronze markers. The Theo. Buerbaum marker will be the first to be installed. It will be placed near the location of his shop at 106 South Main Street. The committee has \$40,000 dollars to begin a marker program, thanks to the Proctor Foundation and a City Council allocation.

Second, there is a plan to have major art installations at four very significant locations: the Square, the East Innes Street Railroad Bridge, the Depot, and the Confederate Military Prison. These installations would have to be over several years, possibly 10 or more. Other major art installations may follow as the trail grows.

The East Innes Street Railroad Bridge was selected as the first site for a major art installation because of its significance as a gateway, the planning efforts that have preceded it, and because of the convenient timing with the recent bridge replacement. Responses from 140 artists (from around the country and a few internationally) have been received from the Request for Qualifications. Strict guidelines are in place. A selection panel has been assembled to begin the process of selecting three finalists. The finalists will visit Salisbury, interview with the panel, and submit their proposals. The panel will make their recommendation for the commission.

The North Carolina Arts Council has provided funding for the selection process. This piece will perform in all the ways public art can perform for a community. It will enhance the appearance of the entry into downtown. It will be an economic catalyst. But most of all, it will connect and educate the community.

2005 City Council Goal: Serve as a catalyst to create a cultural, historic, environmental, and arts identity for our community. Public art enhances the aesthetic, cultural, social, and economic life of the community. It enhances property values, tax resources, and the economic health of the community. Many studies tell us that arts and arts-related activities attract tourism and spur the creation of support services such as restaurants and hotels. The arts directly contribute to urban and rural revitalization. Public art connects communities. It can forge connections between individuals, between social groups, and it can connect communities to the world.

According to the July 2003 Travel Industry of America and Smithsonian Magazine: "NC is one of the Top 10 states for cultural and heritage tourism." Tourism is a \$12 billion a year industry in NC. Salisbury could be the number one cultural and heritage tourism town in the state.

The North Carolina Arts Council provides these statistics: Cultural and Historic Travelers spend: \$631/ trip vs. \$457 of all U.S. travelers; stay longer--4.7 nights vs. 3.4 nights; like to shop--44 percent vs. 33 percent.

Public art makes art accessible to all people. With a median household income in Rowan County of \$40,000, many people do not have the luxury of owning personal art.

The Depot Street Mosaic, "Smoke and Steel," is located right across from the City's bus shelters. The mosaic, sponsored by the Community Appearance Commission, the Robertson Family Foundation, and many local donors, is a great example of public art that many can enjoy. The artist, Robert Crum, tells about the many appreciative comments and very entertaining encounters he experienced with the folks waiting for the buses. There will be a public dedication of the mosaic Friday, October 28, 2005, at 4 p.m. with comments from the Mayor. A reception will follow.

GOALS REVIEW

The purpose of this review is to introduce Dr. Vance to the goals and to remind the Planning Board of this year's accomplishments and what still needs to be completed. These were adopted prior to the City Council's retreat at the beginning of the calendar year.

1. *Conscientiously endeavor to uphold all Zoning Code regulations and Subdivision regulations before the adoption of the new Land Development Ordinance so as to preserve and support the intentions of the Land Development Ordinance Committee and minimize any attempts to subvert the existing Code.*

The City of Salisbury is currently in the process of rewriting the zoning code.

2. *Provide a recommendation of approval / adoption to the City Council on the new Land Development Ordinance.*
3. *Provide a recommendation of approval / adoption to the City Council on the North Main Small Area Plan. (i.e. complete the plan)*

Janet Gapen is taking the lead as staff person for this committee. There have been several meetings so far.

4. *Working with the City Council and the Community, identify a minimum of three future Small Area Plan areas.*

These areas still need to be defined.

5. *Work with the City Council to adopt a set of Zoning Policies for the guidance of Land Uses within the City.*

City Council to provide policies that help in the implementation of the Vision 2020 Plan.

6. *Conduct a minimum of two Education & Training Sessions for the benefit of new and existing Planning Board members. Three topics of importance need to be:*
 - 1) *Geographic Information Systems (GIS);*
 - 2) *Small Area Planning; and*
 - 3) *Stormwater Management*

Planning Board has had three training sessions: 1) Orientation, 2) American Planning Association sponsored Planning and Environmental Law Audio Conference, 3) Visit to the Planning Board meeting in High Point. Dan Mikkelsen also delivered a presentation on Storm Water Drainage to Planning Board May 24, 2005.

7. *Inventory Sidewalks and work to adopt a Sidewalk Plan & Prioritization List.*

The Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) <http://itre.ncsu.edu/> has compiled information on street conditions for Salisbury that will aid in the city's sidewalk inventory. GIS Coordinator Kat Clifton is in the process of mapping the information and will make a presentation to the Planning Board at the second meeting in November (22) to explain.

8. *Inventory Open Spaces and work to adopt independently or integrate an Open Space Plan into the new Land Development Ordinance.*

That has not taken place, yet.

9. *Evaluate the Committee structure and work to adopt a Purpose Statement for Committees and establish the necessary structure.*

Staff has discussed this with the Chair and Vice Chair and there is comfort with the Planning Board's current structure. The Planning Board received a new list in their agenda packets that included Dr. Kelly Vance.

10. *Evaluate and provide a report and recommendation to City Council on the current Fee Structure.*

Mr. Mitchell hopes that this can be addressed in the spring.

11. *Conduct a Planning Summit between the City Planning Board, the Rowan County Planning Board and the local development community.*

Ed Muire is discussing some growth areas on Hwy 29 at I85 with staff. The City and County hope to work together on this.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

Chair

Brian Miller would like to consider not having a meeting the week of Thanksgiving. This will be determined at the November 8 meeting.

Staff

The first meeting of each month is primarily for zoning and land development cases. The second meeting of the month is normally educational for the Board. There will be three zoning cases on the November 8 agenda.

The attorney for Z-13-05 resubmitted the application as a Special Use District. It will now be Z-13S-05.

Janet Gapen had to reschedule the North Main Small Area Plan subcommittee meetings due to conflicts. She will contact members when the new dates are decided.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Brian Miller, Chairman

Lou Manning, Vice Chairman

Secretary, Diana Moghrabi